

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

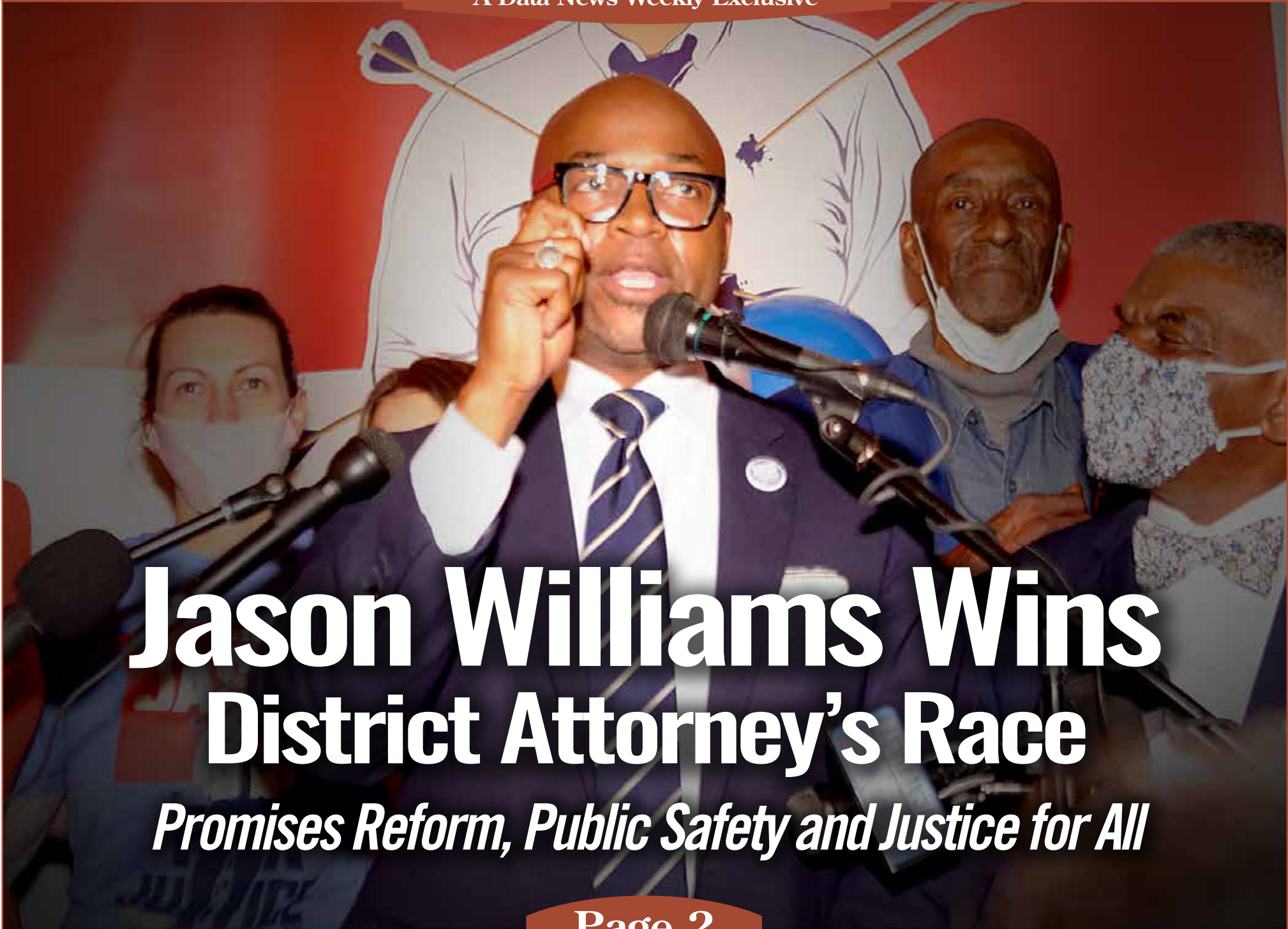
FREE COPY

Jason Williams Victory Celebration

Data Zone Page 5

December 12 - December 18, 2020 55th Year Volume 33 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



Jason Williams Wins District Attorney's Race

Promises Reform, Public Safety and Justice for All

Page 2



Newsmaker
37 Street and
Places for
Renaming

Page 6

State & Local
Sharlayne
Jackson Prevost
becomes First



Page 6

Jason Williams Wins District Attorney's Race

Promises Reform, Public Safety and Justice for All



With his victory, Jason Williams is making history becoming only the second African-American District Attorney in the City's over a 300 year history. He is optimistic about the potential direction of the office and the Criminal Justice System as a whole; promising something that will benefit all the people of the City and improve the quality of life for all its citizens.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

The Race to Reform the District Attorney's Office

In these historic times, there are many things that

are happening that's shifting the cultural landscape and conversations about justice, equity, and fairness. New Orleans, while a jewel of a City in many ways is ground zero for a Criminal Justice System that's rife with archaic, inhuman practices, that makes it the most incarcerated City in the nation, jailing people at twice the national average.

The recent race for District Attorney brought these issues front and center, with both candidates pledging to reform the office and balancing the needs for public safety along with equity for all regardless of race, class, or gender.

All photos in cover story is by Malcom C. Flot Jr.

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Data Zone	4
Newsmaker	6
State & Local News . .	6
Fleur De Lis	7

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher	Edwin Buggage	Production
Edwin Buggage	Fleur De Lis	Pubinator.com
Editor	Data News Weekly	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	Staff Writers	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	Dionne Character	datanewsweeklyad
June Hazeur	Kira Mercado	@gmail.com
Accounting	Malcom Flot	Distribution
	AP Photo/Brynn Anderson	by Terrence Lee
	Manuel Scherif	

Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Williams says that key to his victory was that his campaign was a community driven effort. This is the way he plans to govern, with the concerns of all the citizens of the City from every walk of life.



New Orleans District Attorney-Elect Jason Williams won on a platform of reforming the D.A. office; something he feels will produce better results for the citizens of the City.

Jason Williams Makes History; Becoming only the Second African American District Attorney of New Orleans

When all the votes were counted, Jason Williams defeated Keva Landrum and is now tasked with the job of making the public confident that the District Attorney's Office can deliver on the promises of reform.

Speaking of the failures of the present Criminal Justice System and his agenda he says, "It has denied justice for too many in our community, especially Black men, and has not made our families safer. I will lead an office that rejects a win-at-all-cost culture and replaces that with a culture that is laser-focused on decreasing violent crime like murder, rape, and armed robberies. I will lead an office that prioritizes community engagement and transparency to rebuild public trust and partnership."



Jason Williams with former State Representative John Bagnieris.

The Search for Justice, Equity and Fairness... All Voices Matter

Many of the problems with the system lies in that there are not enough diversity in the voices that are in the room when making decisions around policies relating to public safety and the measuring their impact on the City and its residents. Consequently, this practice produces adverse results, with leading to over-policing, persecuting, and prosecuting some communities while others are being protected and served.

Williams, who says during the campaign and in his work on reform efforts are shaped by his many years of being involved in these efforts will help him bring a diverse pool of people to the table to come up with solutions.

"This campaign was a community driven effort. It was going to be a community effort reflective of the diversity of experiences, the diversity of thought, the diversity of complexion, the diversity of gender in the City of New Orleans. And that same diversity of thought and inclusion more broadly is what we will use in this fight to reform the Criminal Legal System. This new era of criminal justice will look different than it ever did to increase public safety in every neighborhood," Williams said during his victory speech surrounded by his supporters.

What's Needed to Lead through Turbulent Times

In the outgoing administration of the District Attorney's office there is a perception problem on several fronts. Williams says his varied portfolio of experience makes him armed with the skill

sets to restore public confidence that the office needs. Further he states that under his charge, the D.A. Office will operate with integrity and transparency producing better results for the people of New Orleans.

"As City Council President and Criminal Justice Committee Chair, I developed public dashboards to increase information sharing and transparency with the public. I will do the exact same thing as DA so that the public has the information needed to hold me accountable. I also developed the Jerome Smith Criminal Justice Citizen Advisory Council to allow citizens to help set priorities in criminal justice and law enforcement budget priorities. As District Attorney, I will establish a Citizen Advisory Board of Advocates and victims to help ensure we are hearing of the needs, responsive, and rebuild trust."



David vs. Goliath...The Politics of New Orleans

D.A. Elect Williams during his victory speech at times sounding prophetic speaking of those who'd been wrongly accused and later exonerated. Then likening himself to winning this election as a David vs. Goliath moment, as he saw much of the political establishment back his opponent. Not deterred, he took his case to the people. Feeling vindicated, he said to rousing applause and shouts of amen to his supporters spanning the gamut of people citizens of the City he said, "When you put God first all things are possible if you put God and a slingshot you can take that giant out. We put people first, we listened to the people of New Orleans and not political machines."

It is in this spirit of all voices contributing to the conversation that shapes this reform effort that Williams says will guide him as the next District Attorney of New Orleans.

"I believe in New Orleans we can create a blueprint that can be used

throughout the south and the country. To accomplish this, it will take everybody in this City to implement and execute reforming this Criminal Legal System; and make the most incarcerated City in the world the fairest, most humane and with have justice and safety for all regardless of what part of town you are from."

A Positive Vision to Becoming a Better and Safer City

With his victory, Jason Williams is making history; becoming only the second African American District Attorney in the City's over a 300 year history is optimistic about the potential direction of his office and the Criminal Justice System as a whole. He is promising his administration will deliver something that will benefit all the people of the City and improve the quality of life for all its citizens.

"It is now with the future of New Orleans in my mind that I must pledge to you as your next District Attorney that I will be one that you can be proud of."

Cookbook Retraces New Orleans History through Cuisine

Kira Mercado
Data News Weekly Contributor

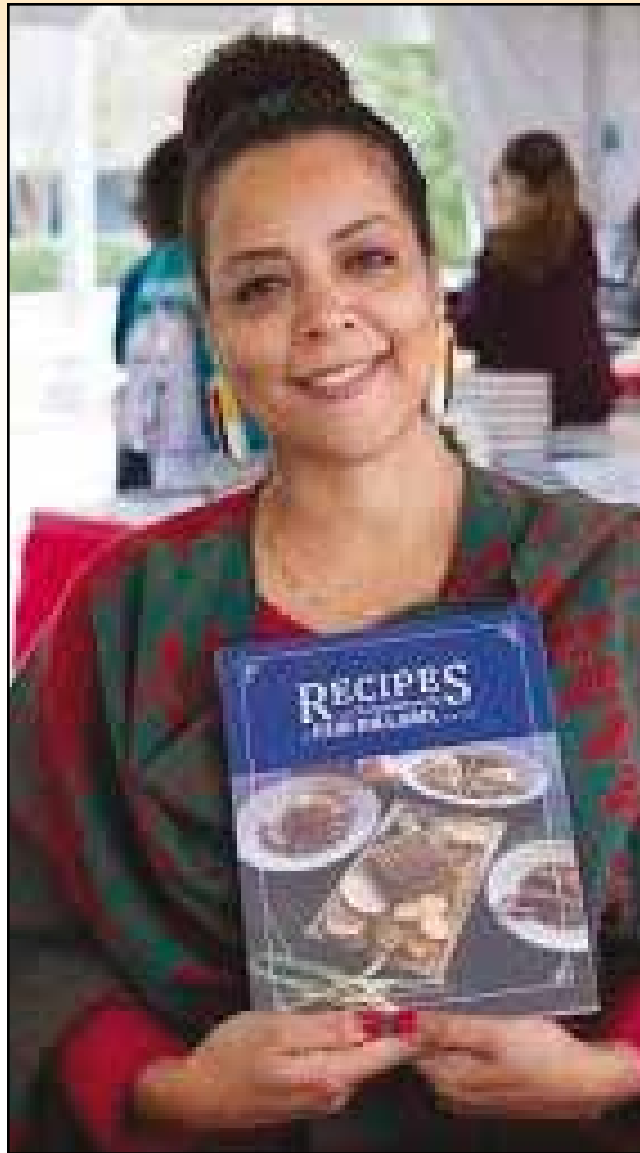
The holidays are a time when families come together, and food is often the heart and soul of the Black family. Through “Recipes and Remembrance of Fair Dillard, 1869-2019,” the Essence of New Orleans food is preserved through a unique cookbook that executes real history and culture. Written by Zella Palmer, the Director and Chair of the Dillard University’s Ray Charles Program in African American Material Culture, the cookbook is more like a food memoir that exhibits diverse and ethnic dishes created by different figures in African American history.

“So, it’s just a fascinating book and I think it’s a way to teach New Orleans Black history and particularly HBCUs’ history,” Palmer said.

It took Palmer over four years to collect over 150 recipes. The recipes parallel major moments in the city that are connected and shaped by important figures from Dillard. The book is divided into three sections. The first section begins with Dillard’s second President Albert W. Dent and spans the 1940s to the late 1960s with recipes collected from Ernestine Jessie Covington Dent’s Cookbook. Published in the 1950s, Dillard’s first lady Dent collected her own recipes from famous friends like Eleanor Roosevelt, Lena Horne, Marion Anderson, and Mary McLeod Bethune. The book was printed by The Dillard’s Woman’s Club and was in the archives for over 60 years.

The second section revives another long, tucked-away cookbook during Dillard’s International Food Festival that took place under the administration of the university’s fourth President, Dr. Samuel Dubois Cook. During the 1970s and 1980s, Cook wrote about New Orleans, Dillard, the art of cooking, and how it brings people together.

The final section takes readers to the current era of the university under its seventh President, Dr. Walter Kimbrough. Palmer shared that she went around Dillard’s campus collecting recipes from current and local chefs, professors, and even a couple of recipes from current university First Lady Adria Kimbrough herself. There is also a short piece written by Adria Kimbrough, an at-



Zella Palmer is the Director and Chair of the Dillard University’s Ray Charles Program in African American Material Culture. The Louisiana Creole Research Association awarded Palmer with the Founders Award on November 12, 2020 for her research and preservation of Black material culture.

torney, on how the role of women and cooking has changed over time.

Palmer said she was inspired by another cookbook author who wrote previous cookbooks about Tuskegee, Hampton, and Howard universities, and she felt like there needed to be one for New Orleans. She wanted readers and food lovers to be able to connect with historical cultures while still being able to put their own twist.

“So, you make it your own, but you’re continuing to cook Creole recipes and, you know, there are tons of recipes in there,” Palmer said. “75-percent of the book is African American, but 25-percent is from all over the world. HBCUs always get a bad rep’ that we’re not inclusive, when we’re the most inclusive place ever,” she said

This cookbook is just not a way to learn how to cook different foods but a way to learn different stories and perspectives from the people who created these dishes.

“Just to be able to taste history and to bring back lost recipes. This made me feel so good,” Palmer said.

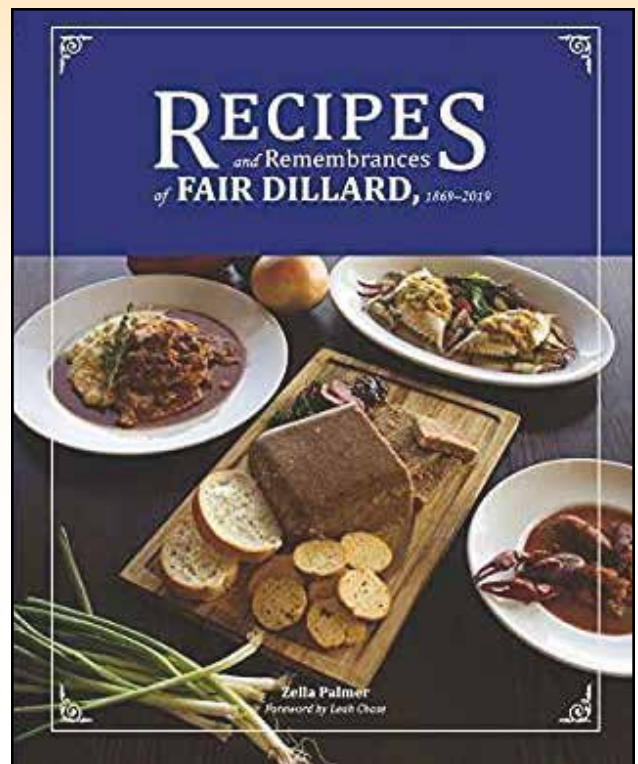
One of the main historical individuals Palmer researched on the project was Nellie Murray, an African American woman cook, who was once enslaved. One of Murray’s most famous dishes was Court-bouillon, a seafood soup. She felt like the importance of including Murray’s presence was because the first student class at Dillard University created the school’s newspaper and named it after this dish, but students today don’t

know the original history.

“We have to keep their culture alive, especially in New Orleans. And even if students aren’t from New Orleans, they get to learn about this rich culture and then they go back to their perspective worlds and make it their own,” Palmer said.

The cookbook along with the recipes have short introductions and stories about the creators. Palmer hopes that their descendants can recognize some of these authors and be able to give them their full recognition.

“Recipes and Remembrance of Fair Dillard, 1869 - 2019” is available to purchase for \$35.99 on ULpress.org. A portion of the proceeds from the book supports Dillard’s student scholarship funds.



“Recipes of Remembrance” traces the culinary history of New Orleans through recipes that tell the stories of Black life in the city.

Jason Williams Victory Celebration

Malcom C. Flot Jr.
Photographer

The City of New Orleans elected a new District Attorney on Dec. 5, 2020. City Councilman-at-Large Jason Williams defeated Judge Keva Landrum in a run-off election. Surrounded by supporters at the NOLA Brewing Company; he addressed a diverse crowd of enthusiastic supporters. Data News Weekly was there for the celebration!!!



Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones, New Orleans District Attorney-Elect Jason Williams and Data News Weekly Editor-in-Chief Edwin Buggage.



Supporters celebrating the victory of Jason Williams being elected the new District Attorney of the City of New Orleans.



An Important Message from Medicare

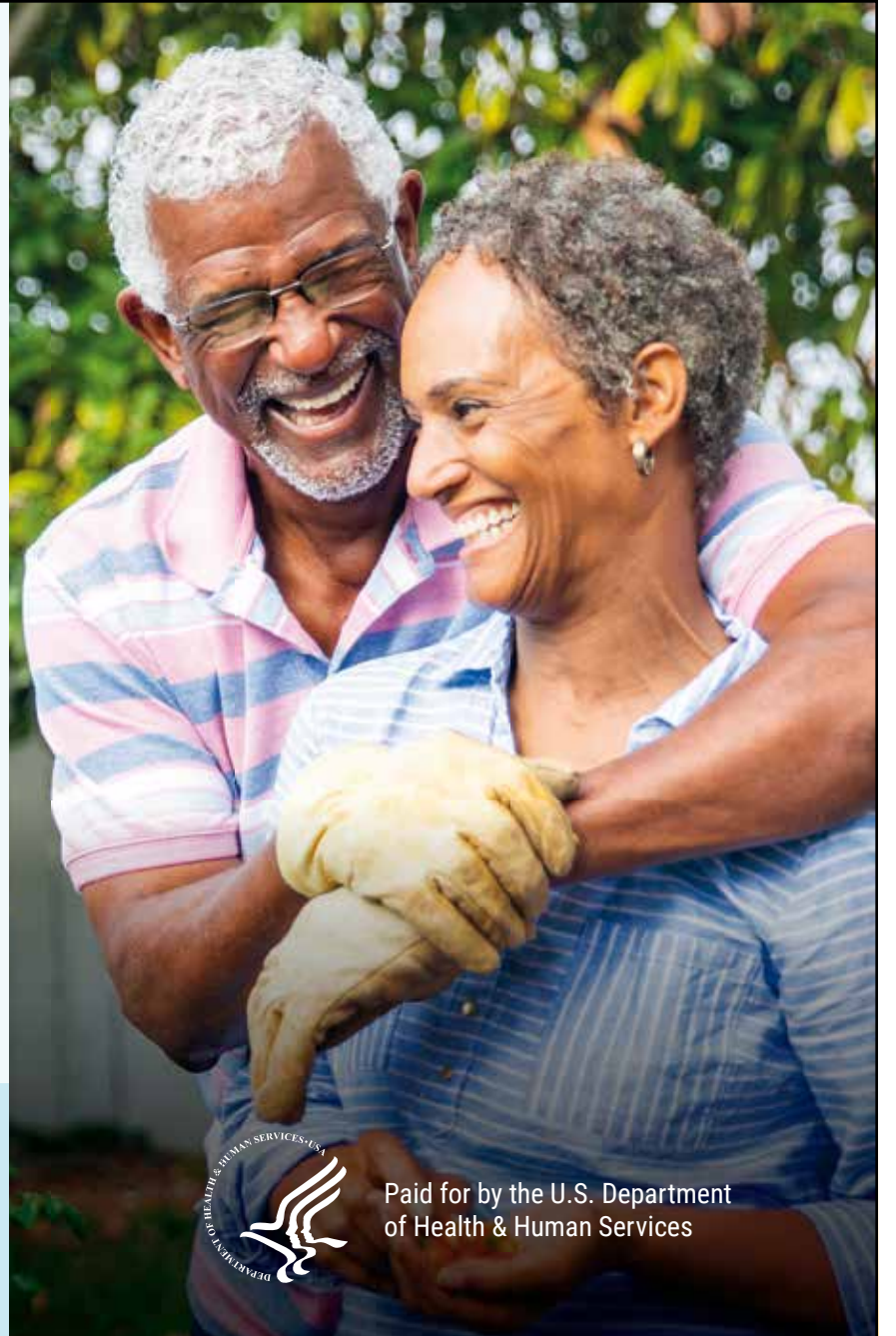
Getting your flu shot is more important than ever.

Flu shots are covered by Medicare.

The flu can have serious complications, especially for people with diabetes, heart disease, and other medical conditions. Getting your shot can help you stay healthy, protect others, and stop the spread.



GET YOUR SHOT NOW. IT'S NOT TOO LATE.
See your doctor, pharmacy, or other local providers.



Paid for by the U.S. Department
of Health & Human Services

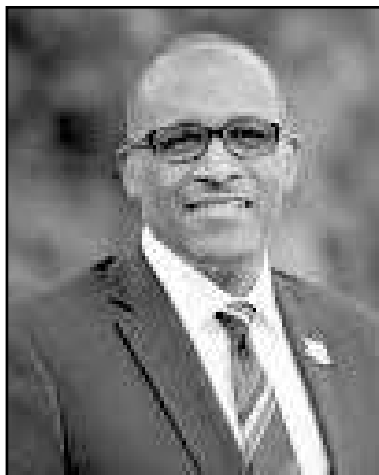
City Commission Proposes 37 Street and Places for Renaming

Manuel Scherif
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The newly formed New Orleans City Council Street Renaming Commission will consider 37 streets, parks, and public places named after Confederate figures and White supremacists, for future renaming. The new list was generated after the commission invited the public to submit places and met virtually on Nov. 24th for a public discussion. The City Council tasked the commission when it created it in June 2020 to work on a comprehensive process for evaluating the names of public spaces to honor those who have fought for social justice and civil rights.

"The change is significant because it allows the community to heal," said Dr. Sharlene Sinegal-DeCuir, a Civil Rights Historian, and Chair of the Department of History at Xavier University. "Several of the streets in New Orleans are named after Confederate generals or people who fought to maintain racial segregation during a turbulent time in American history," she said.

"Changing the names of these streets is the right thing to do. It



Dillard University President Dr. Walter Kimbrough discusses the impact of renaming city streets of important university figures.

shows the community that they are valued, that although history has divided us, that will no longer be our story," Sinegal-DeCuir said.

The City will officially rename Jefferson Davis Parkway – the Norman Francis Parkway on January 1, 2021, after Xavier's long-time president who broke racial barriers during segregation. One of the suggestions the commission received in its most recent hearing was a proposal for renaming General Early Drive in Gentilly, to Dent Drive. The street is named after General Jubal



Dr. Sharlene Sinegal-DeCuir is an Associate Professor of History at Xavier University and studies civil rights movements in Louisiana.

Anderson Early who served as a Confederate general in the Civil War. Albert W. Dent was the second President of Dillard University, who also initially served the university as an academic administrator and as the business administrator of Flint-Goodridge Hospital. The hospital was one of the first hospitals to serve primarily Black New Orleanians and was run by the university. As chief of the hospital and later president of Dillard, Dent went on to aggressively fundraise for the university to improve physician and



Sue Mobley is a member of the City Planning Commission and serves as an advisor to the Street Renaming Commission.

health care training and education. The city commission will also consider public suggestions to rename public streets and spaces after additional Dillard University alumni: former governor P.B.S. Pinchback, Editor and Activist Rodolphe Lucien Desdunes, and Attorney and Activist Louis Andre Martinet.

"I think the renaming of streets provides an opportunity to link these names with history," said Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough, Dillard's current president. "Many people don't know that Pinchback was the

first (and only) Black Louisiana Governor, and while people have heard the phrase Plessy vs. Ferguson, seeing the names Desdunes and Martinet are opportunities to learn about the Citizens Committee that did that work," Kimbrough explained.

To encourage the public to provide more nominations the commission has created a website and online form for residents to propose renaming spaces across their neighborhoods. The commission hopes the effort will restore the legacy of African Americans in the city that was systematically erased during segregation.

"This is challenging," said Sue Mobley, a New Orleans based urbanist, organizer, and advocate and member of the City Planning Commission, who is advising the Renaming Commission.

"The majority of the streets that are going to be renamed are ones that exist as part of the 20th-Century City, some places were specifically drained and built upon in the early 20th Century," Mobley said at the most recent public meeting. "So much of our city's 300-year history is not represented on those places," Mobley said.

State & Local News

Sharlayne Jackson Prevost becomes first African American Elected Judge of Second Parish Court Division A in Jefferson Parish

Data News Staff Edited Report

In what is historical times for African Americans and women running for elected office; there is another historic first that took place in Jefferson Parish on Election Night.

Sharlayne Jackson-Prevost (Dem.) defeated Republican challenger Nelson Cantrelle III in a runoff to become the first African American elected to serve as Judge of Second Parish Court – Division A in Jefferson Parish. Jackson-Prevost, a practicing attorney, garnered 59 percent and just over 9,800 votes.

"This campaign was a labor of love and I appreciate each and every one who helped me get here tonight," said Jackson-Prevost. "I know that when I stand here it's not



"I have always believed that I was the most qualified candidate and now, the voters have spoken and confirmed that belief," said Jackson-Prevost. "I look forward to serving the citizens of Jefferson Parish and greatly appreciate their trust in me to do the best job."

because of me, but because of you – the voters and all who supported me. And I will never forget that. I

will be honorable. I will serve with dignity, respect, and always be fair and impartial. You elected me to do

a job and I will do that job with the highest esteem, I promise."

Jackson-Prevost will not have any problems transitioning to the bench as she currently serves as a City Attorney for the City of Kenner and an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Bureau of Administrative Adjudication in Jefferson Parish.

"I have always believed that I was the most qualified candidate and now, the voters have spoken and confirmed that belief," said Jackson-Prevost. "I look forward to serving the citizens of Jefferson Parish and greatly appreciate their trust in me to do the best job."

Jackson-Prevost bested Cantrelle in November's general election, 49 percent (33,928 votes) to 33 percent (22,753), to earn a spot on the ballot for the Westbank area race. This is her first elected position.

**FROECLUSRE
MAEKS
EEVRYHTIGN
COFNUISNG.**

GET CLEAR ON FORECLOSURE OPTIONS.
CALL 1-888-995-HOPE.

No one is good at going through foreclosure. Thankfully, there's a way for you to get free, trusted advice. Call the Hope Hotline today and speak to a HUD approved counseling agency.





Who Dat Going to the Playoffs this Year

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly Columnist

What's up my good people of the 5-0-4? Happy Holidays, and although we are in different times during the Pandemic and celebrating is being altered; but the last Saints game against the Dirty Birds (Atlanta Falcons) is something we can all be happy about.

Not only did we sweep them this year, but with this game the Saints clinched a spot in this year's playoffs. If the Saints continue to win, they could be the number one seed and have the home field advantage throughout the playoffs. And while we cannot be in a sold-out dome cheering on the Black and Gold we will be there in spirit as they march hopefully all the way to the Superbowl.

In a couple of weeks, we will get a preview of what could possibly be the big one as our Saints take on the defending Superbowl Champs the Kansas City Chiefs. I know this will be a great game



New Orleans Saints running back Alvin Kamara (41) celebrates his touchdown with New Orleans Saints wide receiver Michael Thomas (13) against the Atlanta Falcons during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020, in Atlanta. (AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

and be a true test for our Saints to see if our defense can shut down Patrick Mahomes and the high-powered Chiefs offense.

Although as we all know it is one game at a time, but one thing we do know right now is "Who Dat Going to the Playoffs" the

New Orleans Saints.

I as so many of my NOLA folks feeling good right about now about our Saints and their chances this year to win it all.

We "bout it bout it" and got the best team in the league in my opinion. So, we are proud of our team

and they are doing it on both sides of the ball and with injuries to Drew Brees. They are playing like true champs.

On a different note, as we all know the Saints is the one thing that bring all us together in the City, so let's mirror what they are doing and be champs as well by staying safe during this holiday season to win the battle against the spread of COVID-19.

With a vaccine in sight we almost there, but not quite yet so please continue practicing all the safety protocols.

You know when it all said and done and we back to normal "we gonna make it do what it do" by celebrating who we are as the amazing and special people we are. And we still doing it just in a different way right now. I am about to pull out some holiday Gumbo I got frozen right now.

Until next time this "ya people" Fleur De Lis, giving it to you on everything Black and Gold and "NOLA-FIED".

Queens on Thrones

Happiness: You Only Get One Life



Diva Dionne Character
Female Empowerment
Columnist

People may never understand your happiness and why your dreams continue to flourish when they ain't got nothing tangible to hold up against your endeavors spearheaded by God as you let your outer world be filled with your inner soul.

People in their selfishness may never see the long nights of blood, sweat and hours of hopefulness you give sowing seeds — the ones they eventually see standing tall like palm trees as they are filled with grief thinking all that you have accomplished fell out of the sky like rain drops upon dry skin as they try and steal your joy during the mid-



"Happiness is a personal experience and until you become grateful for the tiny things, you will never manifest those golden opportunities of satisfaction, subjective to tapping into your own discernment," says Diva Dionne Character.

night hours when you are constantly working to keep your dreams alive.

Happiness is a personal experience and until you become grateful for the tiny things, you will never manifest those golden opportunities of satisfaction, subjective to tapping into your own discernment.

You have one life and in that life you are responsible for you, yourself and all of your dreams as you prosper into an abundance of new days of accomplishments, doing what you love becoming more fulfilled and inspired to continue to make a difference, setting yourself aside from those who are afraid to live aloud.

It's time you start making money doing what you love inspiring young minds as you move forward. You are a beautiful soul with a lovely future. Separate yourself from those who are stuck if you have to. Reset your goals and plans as we move forward into another season of uncertainty from this world.

Begin your year of happiness in this one life you have to live today. Do not continue to put your dreams and hopes in the hands of men who will never understand the mind of a woman.

Dionne Character can be reached at characterinhollywood@gmail.com.



DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to
place your classified ad.

Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

We can't wait to
hear from you!

This space can be

yours for only \$80

Call Now!

504-821-7421



#DanceLikeaDad



fatherhood.gov